

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for making a payment to a payee on behalf of a payor, comprising:

receiving, by a payment service provider, a payment request to direct a payment to pay-a payee on behalf of a payor;

determining, by the payment service provider, pre-posting information based at least in part on the payment request;

transmitting, by the payment service provider to the payee, the pre-posting information, whereby the pre-posting information provides the payee information about the payment request prior to the payment service provider directing the payment to the payee -including at least one of information identifying the payor, information identifying a payment amount associated with the received payment request, and information identifying a bill;

directing, by the payment service provider, the payment to the payee on behalf of the payor subsequent to the transmission of the pre-posting information; and

issuing, by the payment service provider, remittance advice to the payee in association with the direction of the payment.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
~~processing, by the payment service provider, the received payment request to determine one or more payment parameters;~~

~~wherein the pre-posting information is transmitted, by the payment service provider to the payee, via the network at one of a time i) prior to the processing of the received payment request, ii) upon completion of the processing of the payment request, or iii) upon completion of a debit associated with the payment request.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the determined one or more payment parameters includes at least one of i) an availability of payor funds prior to directing payment, ii) whether risk will be accepted ~~by the payment service provider~~ in paying the payee on behalf of the payor, iii) a form of payment to the payee on behalf of the payor, iv) if the issued payment is to be a check, a check number of the payment, v) a date upon which payment to the payee will be issued, ~~or~~ and vi) whether an account number of the payor with the payee included in the payment request conforms to an account scheme of the payee.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the transmitted pre-posting information includes at least one of the one or more determined payment parameters.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the payor is one of a plurality of payors;
the payment request is one of a plurality of received payment requests, each requesting

that a payment be made to the payee on behalf of a respective one of the plurality of payors; and
the transmitted pre-posting information is associated with each of the plurality of received payment requests.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by the payment service provider from the payee, a confirmation of receipt of the pre-posting information.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising: further transmitting, by the payment service provider, the received confirmation to the payor.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, by the payment service provider, a payor directive to transmit the pre-posting information to the payee;
wherein the pre-posting information is transmitted, by the payment service provider to the payee, responsive to the received payor directive; and
wherein the payor directive is included in one of i) the payment request, or ii) a communication other than the payment request.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the payment request received by the payment service provider comprises is a recurring payment request associated with multiple instances of payment, and wherein determining the pre-posting information, transmitting the pre-

posting information, directing the payment, and issuing the remittance advice are performed for an instance of the recurring payment the transmitted pre-posting information is a first instance of early posting information, and the payment is a first instance of payment, and further comprising:

transmitting to the payee pre-posting information associated with the received recurring payment request in association with each of the multiple instances of the recurring payment;

directing payment to the payee in association with each of the multiple instances of the recurring payment; and

issuing remittance advice to the payee in association with each of the multiple instances of the recurring payment.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- receiving, by the payment service provider, from the payor a payment request change directive to modify the received payment request subsequent to the transmission of the pre-posting information to the payee and prior to the direction of the payment to the payee and the issuing of the remittance advice to the payee;
- transmitting, by the payment service provider to the payee, information associated with the received payment request change directive that notifies the payee of a change to at least a part of the transmitted pre-posting information;
- wherein the payment request change directive one of i) cancels the received payment request, or ii) modifies the received payment request;
- wherein if the payment request change directive cancels the received payment request, the

payment is not directed, the remittance advice is not issued, and the transmitted information associated with the received payment change directive notifies the payee of the cancelled payment; and

wherein if the payment request change directive modifies the received payment request, the transmitted information associated with the received payment change directive notifies the payee of a change to at least a part of the transmitted pre-posting information.

11. (Currently amended) A system for making a payment to a payee on behalf of a payer, comprising:

a communications interface, associated with a payment service provider, configured to receive a payment request to direct payment to pay a payee on behalf of a payor and, to transmit to the payee pre-posting information including at least one of information identifying the payor, information identifying a payment amount associated with the received payment request, and information identifying a bill; and

a processor, associated with the payment service provider, configured to receive, from the communications interface, the payment request, to determine the pre-posting information based at least in part on the payment request, to cause the communications interface to transmit the pre-posting information to the payee, whereby the pre-posting information provides the payee information about the payment request prior to directing the payment to the payee, to direct payment to the payee on behalf of the payor subsequent to the transmission of the pre-posting information, and to issue remittance advice to the payee in association with the direction of the

payment.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein:

the processor is further configured to process the payment request to determine one or more payment parameters and to cause the pre-posting information to be transmitted to the payee at one of a time i) prior to the processing of the received payment request, ii) upon completion of the processing of the payment request, or iii) upon completion of a debit associated with the payment request.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the determined one or more payment parameters includes at least one of i) an availability of payor funds prior to directing payment, ii) whether risk will be accepted by the payment service provider in paying the payee on behalf of the payor, iii) a form of payment to the payee on behalf of the payor, iv) if the issued payment is to be a check, a check number of the payment, v) a date upon which payment to the payee will be issued, or and vi) whether an account number of the payor with the payee included in the payment request conforms to an account scheme of the payee.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the transmitted pre-posting information includes at least one of the one or more determined payment parameters.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein:

the payor is one of a plurality of payors;

the payment request is one of a plurality of payment requests, each requesting that a payment be made to the payee on behalf of a respective one of the plurality of payors; and the transmitted pre-posting information is associated with each of the plurality of received payment requests.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the communications interface is further configured to receive from the payee a confirmation of receipt of the pre-posting information transmitted by the payee.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the communications interface to transmit the received confirmation to the payor.

18. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein:

the processor is further configured to receive, from the communications interface, a payor directive to transmit the pre-posting information to the payee;

wherein the pre-posting information is transmitted to the payee responsive to the received payor directive; and

wherein the payor directive is included in one of i) the payment request, or ii) a communication other than the payment request.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein:

the payment request comprises is a recurring payment request associated with multiple

instances of payment; and

the processor is configured to determine the pre-posting information, to cause the transmission of the pre-posting information, to direct the payment, and to issue the remittance advice for an instance of the recurring payment

the transmitted pre-posting information is a first instance of early posting information;

the payment is a first instance of payment; and

the processor is further configured to cause the communications interface to transmit to the payee pre-posting information associated with the received recurring payment request in association with each of the multiple instances of the recurring payment, to direct payment to the payee in association with each of the multiple instances of the recurring payment, and to issue remittance advice to the payee in association with each of the multiple instances of the recurring payment.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein—the communications interface is further configured to receive a payment request change directive to modify the received payment request, transmitted by the payor subsequent to receipt of the payment request and prior to the directing of the payment to the payee and issuing of the remittance advice to the payee, and to transmit to the payee information associated with the received payment request change directive that notifies the payee of a change to at least a part of the transmitted pre-posting information;

the processor is further configured to cause the communications interface to transmit the information associated with the received payment request change directive;

~~the payment request change directive one of i) cancels the received payment request, or ii) modifies the received payment request;~~

~~if the payment request change directive cancels the received payment request, the payment is not directed, the remittance advice is not issued, and the transmitted information associated with the received payment change directive notifies the payee of the cancelled payment; and~~

~~if the payment request change directive modifies the received payment request, the transmitted information associated with the received payment change directive notifies the payee of a change to at least a part of the transmitted pre-posting information.~~

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the pre-posting information comprises at least one of information identifying the payment associated with the payment request, information identifying a payment amount associated with the payment request, a requested payment date, an expected payment issuance date, an expected payment mechanism, a payment status change, or information identifying a bill.

22. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the pre-posting information comprises at least one of information identifying the payment associated with the payment request, information identifying a payment amount associated with the payment request, a requested payment date, an expected payment issuance date, an expected payment mechanism, a payment status change, or information identifying a bill.

23. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving, by a payment service provider, a payment request to direct a payment to a payee on behalf of a payor;

determining, by the payment service provider, pre-posting information based at least in part on the payment request;

transmitting, by the payment service provider to the payee, the pre-posting information, whereby the pre-posting information provides the payee information about the payment request;

receiving, by the payment service provider from the payor, subsequent to the transmission of the pre-posting information, a payment request change directive to cancel the received payment request; and

transmitting, by the payment service provider to the payee, information associated with the payment request change directive that notifies the payee of the cancelled payment.

24. (New) A system, comprising:

a communications interface, associated with a payment service provider, configured to receive a payment request to direct payment of a payee on behalf of a payor, to transmit to the payee pre-posting information, to receive a payment request change directive to cancel the received payment request, transmitted by the payor subsequent to receipt of the payment request, and to transmit to the payee information associated with the received payment request change directive that notifies the payee of the cancelled payment; and

a processor, associated with the payment service provider, configured to receive from the

communications interface the payment request, to determine the pre-posting information based at least in part on the payment request, to cause the communications interface to transmit the pre-posting information to the payee, whereby the pre-posting information provides the payee information about the payment request, to receive from the communications interface the payment request change directive to cancel the received payment request, and to cause the communications interface to transmit to the payee the information associated with the received payment request change directive that notifies the payee of the cancelled payment request.

25. (New) A system, comprising:

a means for receiving, by a payment service provider, a payment request to direct a payment to a payee on behalf of a payor;

a means for determining, by the payment service provider, pre-posting information based at least in part on the payment request;

a means for transmitting, by the payment service provider to the payee, the pre-posting information, whereby the pre-posting information provides the payee information about the payment request prior to the payment service provider directing the payment to the payee;

a means for directing, by the payment service provider, the payment to the payee on behalf of the payor subsequent to the transmission of the pre-posting information; and

a means for issuing, by the payment service provider, remittance advice to the payee in association with the direction of the payment.